

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:RLBARRY:ACH
APPROVED BY S/S:PTARNOFF
EUR - AAHARTMAN
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-----161834Z 112126 /40

P 161517Z APR 77
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S E C R E T STATE 086258

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION OF DRAFTER)
E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UR, GW

SUBJECT: SOVIET NOTE ON U.S. MP PATROLS IN EAST BERLIN

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT TURNED OVER TO THE
SECRETARY BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN APRIL 15.
BEGIN TEXT. IN JUNE OF LAST YEAR THE SOVIET SIDE RAISED
WITH THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION THE QUESTION OF CESSATION
OF THE PRACTICE OF PATROLLING THE TERRITORY OF CAPITAL OF
THE GDR BY AUTOMOBILES OF THE MILITARY POLICE OF THE
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AMERICAN GARRISON IN WEST BERLIN. UNFORTUNATELY WE HAVE
HAD NO REACTION WHATEVER TO THIS APPROACH UP UNTIL NOW.
AT THE SAME TIME, JUDGING BY THE INFORMATION AT HAND, THE
SCALE OF THE PATROLLING IS NOT BEING CUT BACK AND HAS
EVEN INCREASED IN RECENT MONTHS. THE PATROLLING IS CARRIED
OUT IN A CLEARLY DEMONSTRATIVE FORM: AMERICAN MILITARY
AUTOMOBILES CARRY OUT REGULAR TOURS OF THE CENTRAL STREETS

OF THE CAPITAL OF THE GDR, CARRY OUT OPEN OBSERVATION OF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER OFFICIAL OBJECTS OF THE GDR, ETC. ALL OF THIS CAUSES UNDERSTANDABLE ANNOYANCE ON THE PART OF THE AUTHORITIES OF THE GDR AND THE LOCAL POPULATION.

2. WE HAVE ALREADY NOTED THAT WE ARE NOT RAISING A QUESTION OF A CHANGE IN THE PROCEDURE FOR CROSSING THE BORDER OF THE CAPITAL OF THE GDR AND WEST BERLIN BY OTHER MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THE THREE STATES. HOWEVER, PATROLLING MUST CEASE. THERE ARE NO FOUR POWER AGREEMENTS AND DECISIONS WHICH GIVE THE THREE STATES THE RIGHT TO POLICE PATROL SERVICE IN THE CAPITAL OF THE GDR. IT WAS INTRODUCED AS AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT. AND SUCH PATROLLING IS SENSELESS FROM A PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW SINCE THE AMERICAN MILITARY POLICE CANNOT CARRY OUT ANY KIND OF OFFICIAL ACTS ON THE TERRITORY OF THE CAPITAL OF THE GDR, INCLUDING ACTS RELATING TO AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL PERIODICALLY VISITING IT.

3. WE EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE AMERICAN SIDE WILL DEMONSTRATE UNDERSTANDING OF OUR POSITION AND STEPS WILL BE TAKEN IN THE NEAREST FUTURE TO GRADUALLY REDUCE THE ABOVE MENTIONED PATROLLING; WHICH ALSO DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO FOUR POWER PRACTICE. SOVIET MILITARY AUTOMOBILES, AS IS KNOWN, DO NOT PATROL WEST BERLIN. OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL TRAVEL BACK AND FORTH EITHER TO OBJECTS WHERE THEY ARE CARRYING ON SERVICE (BERLIN AIR SAFETY CENTER, SPANDAU PRISON, THE MONUMENT TO SOVIET TROOPS IN

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THE TIERGARTEN) OR ON NORMAL ORIENTATION EXCURSIONS.

4. THE SOVIET SIDE, IT IS UNDERSTOOD, RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS DEPENDING ON THE REACTION TO ITS APPROACH. IT IS OUR CONVICTION THAT, IN THE INTERESTS OF THE SIDES AND IN THE INTERESTS OF MAINTAINING BUSINESS-LIKE CONTACTS ON WEST BERLIN, IT WOULD BE EXPEDIENT TO RESOLVE THIS QUESTION ON A RATIONAL BASIS, NOT ATTRACTING UNNECESSARY ATTENTION TO IT AND NOT GIVING OCCASION FOR THE OCCURRENCE OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND DEBATES. END TEXT.

5. PENDING RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTIONS, SOVIET DEMARCHE SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OR THIRD PARTIES. INTERIM COMMENTS FROM ADDRESSEES WOULD BE WELCOME.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, BORDER CONTROLS, BORDER GUARDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE086258
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RLBARRY:ACH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770251-0180, D770221-0601, D770133-0336
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770449/aaaabqon.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ded3cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2782444
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET NOTE ON U.S. MP PATROLS IN EAST BERLIN
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, US, UR, GE
To: MOSCOW BONN
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ded3cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009